

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 2001-366873

DERWENT-WEEK: 200138

COPYRIGHT 1999 DERWENT INFORMATION LTD

TITLE: Determination of syntactic
correctness of expressions
used in computer programs, involves
iteratively
substituting specific characters in
character string of
expression until expression is
reduced to single
character

----- KWIC -----

Basic Abstract Text - ABTX (1):

NOVELTY - A string of characters is created from the
expression. Specific
characters included in the string and also in predetermined
list are
iteratively substituted with characters in another list,
until the expression
is reduced into a single predetermined character. If the
expression is reduced
into single preset character, the expression is determined
to be syntactically
correct.

Basic Abstract Text - ABTX (3):

USE - For determining syntactic correctness of algebraic
expression used in
computer programs.

Basic Abstract Text - ABTX (4):

ADVANTAGE - Since the metal does not rely upon operator
operand tokens, but
character combination in the character string, the
syntactic correctness of all
type of expressions can be determined.

parity bit *n.* An extra bit used in checking for errors in groups of data bits transferred within or between computer systems. With microcomputers, a parity bit is often used in modem-to-modem communications to check the accuracy with which each character is transmitted. A parity bit is also often used to check the accuracy with which each byte is stored in RAM.

parity check *n.* The use of parity to check the accuracy of transmitted data. *See also* parity, parity bit.

parity error *n.* An error in parity that indicates an error in transmitted data or in data stored in memory. If a parity error occurs in communications, all or part of a message must be retransmitted; if a parity error occurs in RAM, the computer usually halts. *See also* parity, parity bit.

park *vb.* To position the read/write head over a portion of a disk that stores no data (and therefore can never be damaged) or beyond the surface of the disk, prior to shutting down the drive, especially in preparation for moving it. Parking can be performed manually, automatically, or, most typically, by a disk utility program.

parse *vb.* To break input into smaller chunks so that a program can act upon the information.

partition *n.* 1. A logically distinct portion of memory or a storage device that functions as though it were a physically separate unit. 2. In database programming, a subset of a database table or file.

passive-matrix display *n.* An inexpensive, low-resolution LCD made from a large array of liquid crystal cells that are controlled by transistors outside the display screen. One transistor controls an entire row or column of pixels. Passive-matrix displays are common in portable computers, such as laptops and notebooks, because of their thin width. While these displays have good contrast for monochrome screens, the resolution is weaker for color screens. Passive-matrix displays are also difficult to view from any angle other than straight on, unlike more expensive active-matrix displays. *Also called* dual-scan display. *See also* liquid crystal display, transistor. *Compare* active-matrix display.

password *n.* A security measure used to restrict access to computer systems and sensitive files. A password is a unique string of characters that user types in as an identification code. The system compares the code against a stored list of authorized passwords and users. If the code is legitimate, the system allows the user access at whatever security level has been approved for the owner of the password.

Password Authentication Protocol *n.* *See* PAP (definition 1).

password protection *n.* The use of passwords as a means of allowing only authorized users access to a computer system or its files.

paste *vb.* To insert text or a graphic that has been cut or copied from one document into a different location in the same or a different document. *See also* cut, cut and paste.

patch *n.* A piece of object code inserted in an executable program as a temporary fix of a bug.

patch *vb.* In programming, to repair a deficiency in the functionality of an existing routine or program, generally in response to an unforeseen need or set of operating circumstances. Patching is a common means of adding a feature or a function to a program until the next version of the software is released. *Compare* hack¹ (definition 2), kludge (definition 2).

path *n.* 1. In communications, a link between two nodes in a network route through a structured collection of information, as in a database program, or files stored on disk. 3. In file storage, the route followed by an operating system through the directories in finding, sorting, and retrieving files on a disk. 4. In graphics, an accumulation of line segments or curves to be filled or drawn.

pathname *n.* In a hierarchical filing system, a listing of the directories or files that lead from the current directory to a file. *Also called* directory path.

Pause key *n.* 1. A key on a keyboard that temporarily stops the operation of a program or a command. The Pause key is used, for example, to scroll so that a multiscroll document can be read. 2. Any key that causes a pause in an operation. For example, many game programs have a Pause key, often simply the P key, that temporarily suspends the game. **PC** *n.* 1. A microcomputer that conforms to the standard developed by Intel for personal computers, which uses a microprocessor in the Intel 80x86 family (or compatible) and can execute the BIOS. *See also* BIOS, clone, IBM PC. 2. A computer in IBM's Personal Computer line. *Also called* IBM PC. *See* PC-compatible (definition 1). 3. *See* personal computer.

PCB *n.* *See* printed circuit board.

PC board *n.* *See* printed circuit board.

PC Card *n.* A trademark of the Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) that is used to describe add-in cards that conform to the PCMCIA specification. A PC Card is a removable device approximately the same size as a credit card, that is designed to plug into a PCMCIA slot. A Type I card is intended to be used primarily as a memory-related peripheral. Type II cards accommodate devices such as modems, and network cards. Type III cards accommodate devices that require an expansion space, such as wireless communications devices and rotating storage media (such as hard disks). *See also* PCMCIA slot.

PC Card slot *n.* *See* PCMCIA slot.

PC-compatible *adj.* 1. Conforming to IBM PC/XT and PC/AT hardware specifications, which have been the de facto standard in the computing industry for personal computers that use the Intel 80x86 family of compatible chips. Most PC-compatible computers today are developed by IBM; they are still sometimes referred to as clones. *Also called* IBM compatible. *See also* clone, IBM AT, IBM PC. 2. *See* Wintel.

PC-DOS *n.* Acronym for Personal Computer Disk Operating System. A version of MS-DOS sold by IBM. MS-DOS and PC-DOS are virtually identical, although filenames of utility programs sometimes differ in the two versions. *See also* MS-DOS.

chart *n.* A graphic or diagram that displays data or the relationships between sets of data in pictorial rather than numeric form.

chassis *n.* A metal frame on which electronic components, such as printed circuit boards, fans, and power supplies, are mounted.

chat *n.* 1. Real-time conversation via computer. When a participant types a line of text and then presses the Enter key, that participant's words appear on the screens of the other participants, who can then respond in kind. Most online services support chat; on the Internet, IRC is the usual system. See also IRC. 2. An Internet utility program that supports chat. IRC has largely superseded it.

chat² *vb.* To carry on a real-time conversation with other users by computer. See also IRC.

chat room *n.* The informal term for a data communications channel that links computers and permits users to "converse," often about a particular subject of interest, by sending text messages to one another in real time, as on the channels provided by IRC. Chat rooms are supported by online services and some electronic bulletin board systems. They can also be set up by individuals who have appropriate software. Also called room. See also BBS (definition 1), chat¹, chat², IRC.

CheaperNet *n.* See 10Base2.

check bit *n.* One of a set of bits added to a data message at its origin and scrutinized by the receiving process to determine whether an error has occurred during transmission. The simplest example is a parity bit. See also data integrity, parity bit.

check box *n.* An interactive control often found in graphical user interfaces. A check box is used to enable or disable one or more features or options from a set. When the user chooses an option, an x or a check mark appears in the box. See also control (definition 2), Compare radio button.

check digit *n.* A digit added to an account number or other identifying key value and then recomputed when the number is used. This process determines whether an error occurred when the number was entered. See also checksum.

checksum *n.* A calculated value used to test data for errors that can occur when data is transmitted or written to disk. The checksum is calculated for a chunk of data by sequentially combining all the bytes of data with a series of arithmetic or logical operations. After the data is transmitted or stored, a new checksum is calculated in the same way using the transmitted or stored data. If the two checksums do not match, an error has occurred and the data should be transmitted or stored again. Checksums cannot detect all errors, and they cannot be used to correct erroneous data.

child *n.* 1. A process initiated by another process (the parent). This initiating action is frequently called a fork. The parent process often sleeps (is suspended) until the child process stops executing. 2. In a tree structure, the relationship of a node to its immediate predecessor. See also tree structure.

child directory *n.* See subdirectory.

child menu *n.* See submenu.

chimes of doom *n.* In Macintosh computers, a series of chimes that sound as a result of serious system failure.

chip *n.* See integrated circuit.

chip set *n.* A collection of chips designed to function as a unit in the performance of some common task. The term most commonly refers to the set of integrated circuits that support a CPU together with the CPU itself. Often a chip set will fit on one chip. See also central processing unit, integrated circuit.

choose *vb.* To pick a command or option from within a graphical user interface—for example, by clicking a button in a dialog box or a command name on a menu. Compare select.

chroma *n.* The quality of a color that combines hue and saturation. See also hue, saturation.

churn rate *n.* The rate of customer subscription turnover. In online businesses, customers who drop their monthly subscriptions can create a churn rate as high as 2 or 3 percent per month. High churn rates are costly to companies because attracting new subscribers through advertising and promotion is expensive.

CIM *n.* Acronym for computer-input microfilm. A process in which information stored on microfilm is scanned and the data (both text and graphics) converted into codes that can be used and manipulated by a computer. Compare COM (definition 4).

cipher *n.* 1. A code. 2. An encoded character. 3. A zero.

circuit *n.* 1. Any path that can carry electrical current. 2. A combination of electrical components interconnected to perform a particular task. At one level, a computer consists of a single circuit; at another, it consists of hundreds of interconnected circuits.

circuit board *n.* A flat piece of insulating material, such as epoxy or phenolic resin, on which electrical components are mounted and interconnected to form a circuit. Most modern circuit boards use patterns of copper foil to interconnect the components. The foil layers may be on one or both sides of the board and, in more advanced designs, in several layers within the board. A printed circuit board is one in which the pattern of copper foil is laid down by a printing process such as photolithography. See also board, printed circuit board.

circuit breaker *n.* A switch that opens and cuts off the flow of current when the current exceeds a certain level. Circuit breakers are placed at critical points in circuits to protect against damage that could result from excessive current flow, which is typically caused by component failure. Circuit breakers are often used in place of fuses because they need only to be reset rather than replaced. Compare surge protector.

circuit card *n.* See circuit board.